



Jan. 6 panel sets vote on contempt charges against Bannon

By MARY CLARE JALONICK,
ERIC TUCKER, JILL COLVIN
and MICHELLE R. SMITH

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection has set a vote to recommend criminal contempt charges against former White House aide Steve Bannon after he defied the panel's subpoena on Thursday.

The chairman of the panel, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said the committee will vote next Tuesday to recommend the charges. That would send the recommendation to the full House for a vote. If the House votes to pursue the contempt charges against Bannon, the Justice Department will ultimately

decide whether to prosecute. The committee had demanded documents and testimony from Bannon, who was in touch with President Donald Trump ahead of the violent attack.

"The Select Committee will not tolerate defiance of our subpoenas, so we must move forward with proceedings to refer Mr. Bannon for criminal contempt," Thompson said in a statement.

The committee had scheduled a Thursday deposition with Bannon, but his lawyer said that at Trump's direction he wouldn't appear. Bannon also failed to provide documents to the panel by a deadline last week.

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In this Aug. 20, 2020, file photo, President Donald Trump's former chief strategist Steve Bannon speaks with reporters in New York.

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A deposition for a second witness that had been scheduled for Thursday, former Defense Department official Kashyap Patel, has been delayed, but Patel is still engaging with the committee, a committee aide said.

Two other men who worked for Trump — former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and longtime Trump social media director Dan Scavino — were scheduled for depositions Friday, but they have both been pushed back as well, according to the aide. Meadows, like Patel, has been given a "short postponement" as he is in talks with the panel. Scavino's deposition has been rescheduled because there were delays in serving his subpoena.

Bannon's testimony is just one facet of an escalating congressional inquiry, with 19 subpoenas issued so far and thousands of pages of documents flowing in. But his defiance is a crucial development for the committee, whose members are vowing to restore the binding force of congressional subpoenas after they were routinely flouted during Trump's time in office.

"Mr. Bannon has declined to cooperate with the Select Committee and is instead hiding behind the former President's insufficient, blanket and vague statements regarding privileges he has purported to invoke," Rep. Thompson said in his statement. "We reject his position entirely."

Other witnesses are cooperating, including some who organized or staffed



In this Jan. 6, 2021 file photo Amy Kremer, founder and chair of Women for America First, speaks in Washington, at a rally in support of President Donald Trump.

Associated Press

the Trump rally on the Ellipse behind the White House that preceded the violent riot. The committee subpoenaed 11 rally organizers and gave them a Wednesday deadline to turn over documents and records. They have also been asked to appear at scheduled depositions.

Among those responding was Lyndon Brentnall, whose firm was hired to provide Ellipse event security that day. "All the documents and communications requested by the subpoena were handed in," he told The Associated Press. Brentnall had previously said, "As far as we're concerned, we ran security at a legally permitted event run in conjunction with the U.S. Secret Service and the Park Police."

Two longtime Trump campaign and White House staffers, Megan Powers

and Hannah Salem, who were listed on the Jan. 6, rally permit as "operations manager for scheduling and guidance" and "operations manager for logistics and communications," have also provided documents or are planning to do so.

It remains unclear whether the others who were subpoenaed intend to cooperate. A committee spokesperson declined to comment Wednesday on the responses it had received and how many of the 11 were complying.

Two additional rally organizers, Ali Alexander and Nathan Martin, as well as their "Stop the Steal" organization, were also subpoenaed for documents, which are due Oct. 21.

Many of the rioters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6 marched up the National Mall after attending at least

part of Trump's rally, where he repeated his meritless claims of election fraud and implored the crowd to "fight like hell." Dozens of police officers were injured as the Trump supporters then broke through windows and doors and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

The rioters repeated Trump's false claims of widespread fraud as they marched through the Capitol, even though the results of the election were confirmed by state officials and upheld by the courts. Trump's own attorney general, William Barr, had said the Justice Department found no evidence of widespread fraud that could have overturned the results.

Also Wednesday, the panel issued a subpoena to a former Justice Department lawyer who positioned

himself as Trump's ally and aided the Republican president's efforts to challenge the results of the 2020 election. The demands for documents and testimony from Jeffrey Clark reflect the committee's efforts to probe not only the insurrection but also the tumult that roiled the Justice Department in the weeks leading up to it as Trump and his allies leaned on government lawyers to advance his election claims.

Clark, an assistant attorney general in the Trump administration, has emerged as a pivotal character. A Senate committee report issued last week showed that he championed Trump's efforts to undo the election results and clashed as a result with Justice Department superiors who resisted the pressure, culminating in a dramatic White House meeting at which Trump ruminated about elevating Clark to attorney general. The committee's demands of Trump aides and associates are potentially complicated by Trump's vow to fight their cooperation on grounds of executive privilege. Biden has formally rejected Trump's claim of executive privilege surrounding a tranche of documents requested from the former president's time in the White House, and has set up the documents' potential release to Congress in mid-November. White House Counsel Dana Remus wrote to the National Archives in a letter released Wednesday that Biden believes that "an assertion of executive privilege is not in the best interests of the United States." □



In this Oct. 2, 2021 file photo people participate in the Houston Women's March against Texas abortion ban walk from Discovery Green to City Hall in Houston.

Associated Press

Other GOP states urge court to let Texas abortion law stand

By PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Eighteen states threw new support behind Texas' ban on most abortions as the Biden administration waited Thursday for a ruling to determine whether the nation's most restrictive abortion law will be allowed to remain in place. The rush to Texas' defense

by the mostly Southern and Midwestern attorneys general reflected the broader stakes and how other Republican-led states might pursue their own versions of Senate Bill 8, which bans abortions once cardiac activity is detected, usually around the sixth week of pregnancy. That is before some women know they are even pregnant.

Texas has had the ban on the books since early September, except for a brief 48-hour window last week after a federal judge in Austin put it on hold. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals quickly set that decision aside and is expected to make a more lasting decision in the coming days about whether the law can stay in effect. □

Missouri gov slams paper for uncovering data security flaw

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)

— Republican Gov. Mike Parson on Thursday condemned one of Missouri's largest newspapers for exposing a flaw in a state database that allowed public access to thousands of teachers' Social Security numbers, even though the paper held off from reporting about the flaw until after the state could fix it.

Parson told reporters outside his Capitol office that the Missouri State Highway Patrol's digital forensic unit will be conducting an investigation "of all of those involved" and that his administration had spoken to the prosecutor in Cole County, which includes the state capital, Jefferson City. He didn't elaborate as to what he meant by "involved" or whether investigators would be looking into whether the St. Louis Post-Dispatch broke the law during the course of its reporting on the data vulnerability. The Post-Dispatch broke the news about the security flaw on Wednesday. The newspaper said it discovered the vulnerability in a web application that allowed the public to search teacher certifications and credentials.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education removed the pages from its website on Tuesday after being told about the issue by the Post-Dispatch, which said it gave the state time to fix the problem before it published its story.

The Post-Dispatch estimated that more than 100,000 Social Security numbers were vulnerable, based on pay records and other data. It found that the school workers' Social Security numbers were in the HTML source code of the pages involved.

"The state is unaware of any misuse of individual information or even whether information was accessed inappropriately outside of this isolated incident," the DESE said in a news release. Though the Post-Dispatch alerted the agency to the problem and held off on the story, the agency's

news release called the person who discovered the vulnerability a "hacker" — an apparent reference to the reporter — who "took the records of at least three educators." The agency didn't elaborate as to what it meant by "took the records" and it declined to discuss the issue further than what it said in its news release when reached by The Associated Press.

Source codes are accessible by right-clicking on public webpages.

The newspaper's president and publisher, Ian Caso, said in a statement that the Post-Dispatch stands by the story and the reporter, who he said "did everything right." "It's regrettable the governor has chosen to deflect blame onto the



In this Tuesday, July 13, 2021, file photo, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson answers media's questions in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

journalists who uncovered the website's problem and brought it to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's attention," Caso said. Parson also suggested that the reporter somehow

broke the law. "This individual is not a victim," Parson told reporters. "They were acting against a state agency to compromise teachers' personal information in an attempt to embarrass the state

and sell headlines for their news outlet. We will not let this crime against Missouri teachers go unpunished."

Peter Swire, a cyber law expert and professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Cybersecurity and Privacy, said flagging security vulnerabilities on publicly accessible websites is a "public service" and is "clearly not criminal under federal law." "Right clicking does not count as criminal hacking," Swire said.

Joseph Martineau, an attorney for the Post-Dispatch, said in a statement that the reporter "did the responsible thing by reporting his findings to DESE so that the state could act to prevent disclosure and misuse. □



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Trump campaign, others want Dominion worker's suit dismissed

By JAMES ANDERSON

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Attorneys for President Donald Trump's re-election campaign, its onetime attorney Rudy Giuliani and conservative media figures asked a judge Wednesday to dismiss a defamation lawsuit by a former employee of Dominion Voting Systems who argues he lost his job after being named in false charges as trying to rig the 2020 election.

Eric Coomer, a former security director at Colorado-based Dominion, says in the lawsuit he was driven into hiding by death threats after the Trump campaign and others publicized an unverified report that Coomer told activists of the Antifa movement in a pre-election telephone call that the vote could be fixed for Joe Biden.

Despite repeated claims and lawsuits, there has been no evidence that the 2020 election was rigged or of widespread fraud.

Coomer's Denver District Court lawsuit names the



In this Aug. 30, 2018 file photo, Eric Coomer from Dominion Voting demonstrates his company's touch screen tablet that includes a paper audit trail at the second meeting of Secretary of State Brian Kemp's Secure, Accessible & Fair Elections Commission in Grovetown, Ga.

Associated Press

Trump campaign, Giuliani and onetime campaign lawyer Sidney Powell, conservative columnist Michelle Malkin, the website Gateway Pundit, Colorado activist Joseph Oltmann and One America News

Network.

The case centers around reporting of the alleged September 2020 phone call by Oltmann.

His attorney said that Oltmann identified someone referred to as "Eric" on the

purported call as Coomer by Googling the name and Dominion. Oltmann also found private anti-Trump social media posts by Coomer, said attorney Andrew DeFranco. Oltmann publicized his

findings on a podcast, and he was both interviewed about it and it was picked up by the other defendants, the lawsuit alleges. Both President Trump and his son Eric Trump tweeted references to the report as the campaign launched ultimately unsuccessful lawsuits after the election alleging there was widespread voter fraud.

Giuliani and Powell both referred to Coomer in a post-election news conference alleging fraud.

"This case is not about whether Coomer was on the call in September 2020. This is about whether Oltmann reasonably believes that Coomer was on the call," DeFranco said. "He believes it to this day."

DeFranco, Giuliani attorney Joe Sibley and Trump campaign attorney Eric Holway argued their clients didn't act with malice, that the report was public knowledge, and that Coomer was a public figure — all conditions that should preclude Coomer from prevailing in his defamation suit. □

Coast Guard: California oil spill likely 25,000 gallons



This Monday, Oct. 11, 2021, aerial file photo taken with a drone, shows beachgoers as workers in protective suits continue to clean the contaminated beach in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

By AMY TAXIN

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The amount of crude oil spilled in an offshore pipeline leak in Southern California is believed to be close to 25,000 gallons, or only about one-fifth of what officials initially feared, a Coast Guard official said Thursday.

The leak off the coast of

Orange County was previously estimated to be at least 25,000 gallons (94,635 liters) and no more than 132,000 gallons (499,674 liters). The final count for the spill will likely be closer to the lower figure, which correlates with the amount of oiling seen on the California shore, Coast Guard Capt. Rebecca Ore said

Thursday.

"We have a high degree of confidence that the spill amount is approximately 588 barrels," she told reporters in Newport Beach. "That number may potentially adjust a small degree." The spill off Huntington Beach was confirmed on Oct. 2, a day after residents reported a petroleum smell in the area.

Coast Guard officials said it came from a leak in a pipeline owned by Houston-based Amplify Energy that shuttles crude from offshore platforms to the coast. Officials said the cause of the leak remains under investigation but the pipeline was likely damaged by a ship's anchor several months to a year before it ruptured.

The shorelines in Huntington Beach, which is known as "Surf City USA," and neighboring Newport Beach were shut down until Monday.

Fishing also has been

barred off the coast of Orange County. State officials are taking samples of fish from the area to assess whether they've been affected by the oil before allowing fishing to resume.

Workers in protective gear continue to comb the sand for tar balls washing ashore along more than 70 miles (113 kilometers) of coastline in Orange and San Diego counties. Roy Kim, an environmental scientist with California's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, said the size of tar balls being collected on beaches has diminished from the early days after the spill.

"They were seeing huge patties of oil in the beginning," Kim said, adding that the oil slick has largely been broken up into tar balls by the tides and winds. "Now you're just kind of seeing the smaller stuff."

Crews are also working to remove oil from rocky coastal habitat while being

careful not to damage it, he said.

Some oil is naturally present off the coast of Southern California and residents are used to seeing some tar on beaches, said California Fish and Wildlife Lt. Christian Corbo. Tar samples collected in the clean up will be sent to a state petroleum chemistry lab to determine whether they're from the spill, he said.

In the coming days, workers will likely start assessing beach conditions in specific areas to determine whether the clean-up is complete, Ore said.

While it's still possible tar balls will wash up from the spill after that point — and officials will continue to respond to reports that come in — "at some point, and we're evaluating this right now, we reach a point where we recommend no further treatment on segments of the beach," she said. □

Norway's bow-and-arrow killings seen as 'act of terror'

Associated Press

KONGSBERG, Norway (AP)

— The bow-and-arrow rampage by a man who killed five people in a small town near Norway's capital appeared to be a terrorist act, authorities said Thursday, a bizarre and shocking attack in a Scandinavian country where violent crime is rare.

Police identified the attacker as Espen Andersen Braathen, a 37-year-old Danish citizen, who was arrested on the street Wednesday night. They said he used the bow and arrow and possibly other weapons to randomly target people at a supermarket and other locations in Kongsberg, a town of about 26,000 where he lived.

Witnesses said their quiet neighborhood of wooden houses and birch trees was turned into a scene of terrifying cries and turmoil.

"The screaming was so intense and horrifying there was never any doubt something very serious was going on," said Kurt Einar Voldseth, who had returned home from an errand when he heard the commotion. "I can only describe it as a 'death scream,' and it burned into my mind."



A frame grab made on Thursday Oct. 14, 2021 from a video posted online by and showing Espen Andersen Braathen, a 37-year-old Danish citizen, who was arrested Wednesday night for killing 5 people in the Norwegian town of Kongsberg.

Four women and one man between the ages of 50 and 70 were killed, and three other people were wounded, police said. Andersen Braathen is being held on preliminary charges and will face a custody hearing Friday. Police said they believe he acted alone.

"The whole act appears to be an act of terror," said Hans Sverre Sjøevold, head of Norway's domestic intelligence service, known as the PST.

"We do not know what the

motivation of the perpetrator is," Sjøevold said in English.

"We have to wait for the outcome of the investigation."

He said the suspect was known to the PST, but he declined to elaborate. The agency said the terror threat level for Norway remained unchanged at "moderate."

Regional Police Chief Ole B. Sæverud described the man as a Muslim convert and said there "earlier had been worries of the man

having been radicalized," but he did not elaborate or say why he was previously flagged or authorities did in response.

Police were alerted to a man shooting arrows about 6:15 p.m. and arrested him about 30 minutes later. Regional prosecutor Ann Iren Svane Mathiassen, told The Associated Press that after the man's arrest, he "clearly described what he had done. He admitted killing the five people."

She said the bow and arrows were just part of the

Associated Press

attacker's arsenal. Police have not said what other weapons were used.

Norwegian media reported the suspect previously had been convicted of burglary and drug possession, and last year a court granted a restraining order for him to stay away from his parents for six months after he threatened to kill one of them.

Svane Mathiassen told Norwegian broadcaster NRK the suspect will be examined by forensic psychiatric experts, which is "not unusual in such serious cases."

Mass killings are rare in low-crime Norway, and the attack immediately drew comparisons with the country's worst peacetime slaughter a decade ago, when a right-wing domestic extremist killed 77 people with a bomb, a rifle and a pistol. □

People have "experienced that their safe local environment suddenly became a dangerous place," Norwegian King Harald V said Thursday. "It shakes us all when horrible things happen near us, when you least expect it, in the middle of everyday life on the open street." □

At UN court, Armenia accuses Azerbaijan of ethnic hatred

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)

— Armenia urged judges at a United Nations court Thursday to order Azerbaijan to release Armenians detained during a six-week war last year and to stop promoting ethnic hatred. Azerbaijan urged judges to reject the requests as the two nations faced off in a Hague courtroom.

Armenian representative Yeghishe Kirakosyan made the requests as a hearing opened at the International Court of Justice into a petition by Armenia for judges to impose urgent interim measures to prevent Azerbaijan breaching an international convention to stamp out ethnic discrimination.

nation. Among measures Armenia wants the court to impose on Azerbaijan are an order to release and repatriate prisoners of war and halt hate speech aimed at Armenians.

Azerbaijan's deputy foreign minister, Elhur Mammadov, said Armenia's request "is defective, and must be rejected."

The case stems from long-standing enmity that boiled over into last year's war over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh that left more than 6,600 people dead. The region is within Azerbaijan but had been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994. Kirakosyan said Armenia wasn't asking the court to

rule on the root causes of the war, but "seeks to prevent and remedy the cycle of violence and hatred perpetrated against ethnic Armenians."

Azerbaijan also has filed a similar case alleging discrimination against its citizens by Armenia and also has requested the world court to impose interim measures. Hearings in the Azerbaijan case are scheduled to start next Monday. Rulings on both requests will likely be issued in coming weeks.

Both nations' cases alleging breaches of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination will likely take years to reach their conclusion at the Hague-based court.



In this Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020 file photo, ethnic Armenian volunteer recruits gather at a center near Hadrut, self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, where they receive their uniforms and weapons before being dispatched to the frontline.

Associated Press

Last year's conflict ended when Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a Russia-brokered ceasefire agreement that granted Azerbaijan control over parts of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as adjacent territories occupied by Armenians. □

Women taken from mothers in Congo seek Belgian reparations

BRUSSELS (AP) — A court in Brussels has started considering a crimes against humanity lawsuit brought by five biracial women who were born in Congo and taken away from their Black mothers when they were little and the country was under Belgian colonial rule. Lea Tavares Mujinga, Monique Bintu Bingi, Noelle Verbeeken, Simone Ngala and Marie-Jose Loshi are suing the Belgian state in hopes it will recognize its responsibility for the suffering of thousands of mixed-race children. Known as "metis," the children were snatched away from families and placed in religious institutions and homes by Belgian authorities that ruled Congo from 1908 to 1960.

"My clients were abducted, abused, ignored, expelled from the world," lawyer Michele Hirsch said Thursday as a court in the Belgian capital examined the civil case. "They are living proof of an unconfessed state crime, and soon there will be no one left to testify."

The five women have requested compensation



In this Monday, June 29, 2020 file photo, clockwise from top left, Simone Ngala, Monique Bintu Bingi, Lea Tavares Mujinga, Noelle Verbeeken and Marie-Jose Loshi pose for a group photo during an interview with The Associated Press in Brussels.

Associated Press

of 50,000 euros (\$55,000) each. The court is expected to deliver a verdict within six weeks. The five women, all born between 1945 and 1950, filed their lawsuit last year amid growing demands for Belgium to reassess its colonial past.

In the wake of protests against racial inequality in the United States, several statues of former King Leo-

pold II, who is blamed for the deaths of millions of Africans during Belgium's colonial rule, have been vandalized in Belgium, and some have been removed. In 2019, the Belgian government apologized for the state's role in taking thousands of babies from their African mothers. And for the first time in the country's history, a reigning king ex-

pressed regret last year for the violence carried out by the former colonial power. Hirsch said Belgium's actions are inadequate to what her clients experienced.

"The Belgian state did not have the courage to go all the way, to name the crime, because its responsibility incurred damages," the lawyer said. "Apolo-

gies for history, yes, but reparations to the victims, no."

Lawyers say the five plaintiffs were all between the ages of 2 and 4 when they were taken away at the request of the Belgian colonial administration, in cooperation with local Catholic Church authorities.

According to legal documents, in all five cases the fathers did not exercise parental authority, and the Belgian administration threatened the girls' Congolese families with reprisals if they refused to let them go.

The children were placed at a religious mission in Katende, in the province of Kasai, with the Sisters of Saint Vincent de Paul. There, they lived with some 20 other mixed-race girls and Indigenous orphans in very hard conditions.

According to the lawyers, the Belgian state's strategy was aimed at preventing interracial unions and isolating métis children, known as the "children of shame," to make sure they would not claim a link with Belgium later in their lives. □

Envoy aborts visit to Myanmar, straining ASEAN relations



In this Jan 27, 2021, file photo, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi watches the vaccination of health workers at hospital in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.

Associated Press

By GRANT PECK

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar's military-installed government said Thursday that a special envoy appointed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations abruptly canceled his visit this week after it told him he would not be able to meet with ousted leader Aung San

Suu Kyi and others he had proposed.

The visit's cancellation is likely to have fueled sentiment among some members of the 10-nation regional body, known as ASEAN, to punish Myanmar for hindering the envoy's work.

Malaysia had already pro-

posed that Myanmar's leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, not be allowed to attend an ASEAN summit later this month.

A hastily scheduled virtual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers will consider the issue on Friday night, said two Southeast Asian diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to release such information.

Myanmar had agreed to allow this week's visit by the special envoy, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof, but he canceled after being informed by his hosts that he would not be able to meet all those he wanted to, said a statement issued by Myanmar's foreign ministry.

The statement did not mention whom Erywan sought to meet, but he said last month that it included Aung San Suu Kyi. Her elected government was ousted

by the military in February, precipitating widespread and volatile popular opposition.

Myanmar military spokesman Maj.-Gen. Zaw Min Tun had previously explained that Erywan could not meet with Suu Kyi because of the criminal charges against her.

"As Myanmar has been prioritizing peace and tranquility in the country, some requests which go beyond the permission of existing laws will be difficult to be accommodated," the foreign ministry statement said.

It said it "has already accommodated its best to the proposals of special envoy to enable his visit to Myanmar."

ASEAN foreign ministers in August appointed Erywan as their envoy to help mediate an end to Myanmar's crisis. Even before his scheduled trip, some

ASEAN members had become frustrated at the perceived lack of cooperation from Myanmar's government.

Suu Kyi has been in detention since the army takeover, and is currently being tried on several charges that her supporters and independent analysts say are contrived and an attempt to legitimize the military's seizure of power.

ASEAN is hamstrung by its bedrock policy of noninterference in the domestic affairs of member nations and by its consensus decision making, meaning just one member state can shoot down any proposal. But some members feel action is justified because major unrest in Myanmar could trigger regional instability. ASEAN leaders at a special meeting in April issued a statement expressing a "five-point consensus" on Myanmar's crisis. □

In Chile, Haitians grow weary of waiting, eye journey to U.S.

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) —

The 37-year-old Haitian says not a day goes by in which he doesn't think of leaving Chile, like the multitudes who have grown frustrated and headed north toward the United States.

He feels caught in a vicious circle: He was laid off three months ago and can't get a new job without a valid identity card, but he can't get his card renewed without an employment contract.

The government of President Sebastián Piñera has been tightening laws on migrants and Pierre — who declined to give his last name because he didn't want to put his residency bid at risk — said it seems to be acting "so that we Haitians get tired of the country."

Tens of thousands of Haitians came to Chile in recent years, fleeing disasters and poverty while taking advantage of relaxed visa rules and a booming economy in Chile. But a tighter job market and newly imposed bureaucratic barriers have led many to seek better opportunities in the U.S., despite a crackdown that followed the appearance of a border camp holding more than 14,000 people in Del Rio, Texas.

Few appear inclined to head back to Haiti itself, where poverty and violence have grown even worse since they left.

More than 10,000 Haitians have been expelled from several countries to their homeland since Sept. 19 — more than 7,600 of those from the United States alone — according to the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration.

Thousands are still on the long road north — many stuck at migration bottlenecks in northern Colombia and southern Mexico.

Chile's government has granted permanent residence to almost 70,000 Haitians, but another 110,000 now lack official documents, according to Deputy Interior Minister Juan Francisco Galli.

Many had arrived on tourist visas before 2018, when



Haitian migrant Carlo Richard shows his expired Chilean identity card, which was good for six months then rejected for renewal, at home in a camp named "Bosque Hermoso," or Beautiful Forest in Lampa, Chile, Friday, Oct. 1, 2021.

Associated Press

Chile's center-right government issued a decree requiring that Haitians to get a visa before traveling to Chile. In April, it enacted a new law that seeks to prevent the irregular entry of foreigners and makes expulsions easier.

"We are putting our house in order," Piñera said.

The government has set a Monday deadline for them to regularize their status or face potential expulsion — though it hasn't specified what steps it will take. It already expelled several hundred migrants — including dozens of Haitians — on flights to their homelands.

Many, like Pierre, say it's impossible to comply. For example, Chile requires them to provide a document certifying a Haitian government background check — but it can take months at best to get such papers from the Caribbean nation's government.

Pierre, who is married and whose locally born daughter is a Chilean citizen, said he has been trying to update his residency permission for two years and is only about halfway through the process.

"I spent about four years working in a company and I am still irregular in the country," he said.

Pierre lives in the Dignidad

camp, southeast of the capital of Santiago, in a cluster of small wooden houses along dirt streets devoid of greenery. He rarely leaves his tiny house, hoping someone he knows will come by to offer him temporary work.

He has a motorcycle

parked outside, but can't use it because he does not have a driver's license, which he cannot get without an identity card.

Magdaline Alfred, a Haitian with permanent residence, says many of her compatriots left Chile because "they cannot work because they

do not have papers."

"It makes me very sad because many left (for the U.S.) with their children who were born here ... and now they are deporting Haitians with Chilean children," she said.

Lyné Francois, a Haitian social worker and community leader, said, "There are people who have had their papers rejected two or three times and they are bored, desperate, exhausted and they are leaving."

"We think the government could make things easier, especially because of the earthquake, people don't know what to do," she added, referring to a major earthquake that hit Haiti in August, causing further hardships there.

Carlo Richard, a Haitian auto mechanic who has resided in Chile since 2017, is one of thousands who live in fear of being expelled because his papers have been rejected several times. He said he has received four emails from immigration authorities telling him he faces expulsion and has 15 days to leave the country. □



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LOCAL



Aruba included in Airbnb favourite Caribbean and Latin American destinations for US travelers

ORANJESTAD — Aruba is a culturally rich nation, full of history and desirable tourist attractions. This island destination has always been sought after by visitors, and that appeal continues to increase, landing Aruba a number 11 spot on Airbnb's recently announced top 12 Caribbean and Latin American cities for US travelers.

According to data from Airbnb, the Caribbean and Latin American region has become a trend for travelers from the U.S. Based on the number of searches made on the platform, 12 of the most popular Caribbean and Latin America destinations are:

1. San Juan, Puerto Rico
2. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
3. Tulum, Mexico



4. Cancun, Mexico
 5. Mexico City
 6. The Bahamas
 7. Playa del Carmen, México
 8. Ensenada, Mexico
 9. Medellin, Colombia
 10. Puerto Penasco, Mexico
 11. Aruba
 12. Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
- The region represents an accessible option for North American visitors with an average cost per night of less than 150 USD.

"Not only are US travelers looking for destinations that offer cultural attractions and tropical beach escapes, but many from the Caribbean and Latin community are looking to reconnect with their roots and visit their place of origin to see parents, grandparents and extended family. Airbnb offers the possibility of finding ac-

commodations in both large and small cities in all parts of the region," said Stephanie Ruiz, Director of Communication for Latin America.□

Restoration former "Botica Aruba"



ORANJESTAD - Recently, the Monuments Fund of Aruba (SMFA) celebrated the completion of the restoration of the monument located at the Steenweg 19, formerly known as the Botica Aruba and El Mercado.

The Minister of Finance and Culture Mrs. Xiomara Maduro was also in attendance. The restoration was done by Van Kessel Havenbouw NV and the building design by Archiosa. Archiosa and JOOST ABC were in charge of the supervision of the entire restoration process. Mr. Evert Bongers was in charge of the historical investigation of the building and even wrote an article called; Botica Aruba, a business of gentleman of class. The family of the owners provided the information and photos of the past. Mr. Walter Mohammed documented the different phases of the restoration project in pictures. For now, SMFA only renovated the exterior of the building because they did not find a tenant. Once they have a tenant, they will proceed with the renovation of the interior based on the tenant's requirements. In general, there are some pre-set requirements before the SMFA can purchase any building. One of the requirements is that the SMFA needs to have a long-term tenant available before even acquiring a monument. The process of acquiring this building was exceptional as they still do not have a tenant. SMFA purchased this monument without a tenant to prevent the demolition of the historical building by private entities. The building located at Steenweg 19, is a protected monument. It was built in 1925 by Addison Winfield Croes. In 1935, Mr. Croes and Gustave Nouel established "Botica Aruba" in the building. This pharmacy served the community until 1985 when it closed its doors. The owners of Palais Hindu purchased the building, and in 1993 they established "El Mercado" in the same building. Now, six years after SMFA bought the building, they restored the exterior and build it back into the original design as in 1925. The exterior of the building is very detailed and contains plenty of decorative elements. They reopened the balcony of the building and brought back all the gingerbread decorations around the windows and the balcony. By acquiring the historical building, the SMFA can guarantee its existence for future.□

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Booster COVID-19 vaccine soon available for the immune-compromised

ORANJESTAD - The World Health Organization (WHO) is advising people with weaker immune systems to consider taking the additional shot of approved COVID-19 vaccines, like Moderna or Pfizer, to maintain their level of protection against the Covid virus elevated.

After consulting with the RIVM of the Netherlands and other professionals in the field, Aruba will soon make the booster vaccine or third vaccine available for those at higher risk. Currently, the Department of Public Health (DVG) in Aruba is working with the family physicians organization and specialists to reach the vulnerable group eligible for the third vaccine shot. This group includes about 1000 and 1500 patients. These patients have



a fragile or compromised immune system and are under doctor's care or supervision. These patients will receive a referral letter to get their third vaccine at the DVG. Without this referral letter from the physician, you will not receive the third vaccine. Those eligible for the third Pfizer vaccine have one or more of the following medical conditions and should have already received the second vaccine over a month ago:

- Patients who have received a bone marrow or stem-cell transplant within the last two years
- Patients who have received treatment for a malignant hematological illness during the past two years
- All patients who underwent chemotherapy in 2021
- Certain patients with kidney disease who use 'biological's and are under specialist treatment.
- Dialysis patients
- Patients who received a kidney transplant
- Patients using strong medications that lower their immune systems like Rituximab, Cyclophosphamide, or CellCept.

If you match any of the above-mentioned criteria, you are eligible for the third Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. On your next visit to your specialist, during the upcoming three months, your specialist will refer you to the DVG to receive your third vaccine. If you do not have an appointment with your specialist or physician during the next three months, please call your specialist to verify if you are eligible for the third vaccine and to receive your referral letter.

Please note that without the referral letter from your specialist or physician, the DVG has no authority to provide you with the third vaccine. Keep in mind that the patient eligible for the third vaccine should already have received the second Pfizer vaccine one month ago.□

Census 2020 results - Labor

ORANJESTAD - The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) presents the results of the Censo2020 for the topic, Labor.

The data of our labor force is extremely important, since it gives us an overview of the economic and social development of our country. For this reason, during a census, the CBS asked every person 14 years and older if they worked during the week before the

census. The results of the Censo2020, indicate that on October 1, 2021, 43,632 persons were employed, 4,111 persons were unemployed and looking for a job. 40,039 persons were not active in our workforce, meaning they were unemployed and looking for a job.

The pandemic affected the labor market around the world. To get a better overview of the effects of the pandemic, a comparison was made between the results of the pilot census of 2019 and the Censo2020. Between the pilot census in 2019 and the Censo 2020, the unemployment rate increased from 5.2% to 8.6%. For men, the unemployment rate increased from 5.3

5 in 2019 to 9.3% in 2020. For women the unemployment rate was 5.2% in 2019 and 8.0% in 2020.

Due to the pandemic the non-active persons in our labor market increased substantially. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of inactive persons in our labor market increased with 26.8%. Normally, this group consists of pensioners and school going persons. In 2020, it also included persons who were waiting for work to reassume after the effects of COVID-19 pass. The participation of men and women in the labour market also decreased considerably during the pandemic, from 70.5% in 2019 to 58% in 2020 for men and from 60.2% in 2019 to 51.2% in 2020 for women.□

Aruba to me

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Discover enhanced tranquility of Body & Mind at Eforea Spa

PALM BEACH — Aruba's unique oceanfront spa, Eforea, at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, is thrilled to announce the addition of locally inspired wellness treatments and services to its menu.

"We are excited to offer a mix of timeless and innovative treatments to our guests who perhaps were restricted in travel over the past year and a half and finally take time to vacation, wishing to emerge brighter, feeling renewed, uplifted and refreshed," says Marielle Smeets, Senior Director of Resort Experience. Eforea Spa at Hilton Aruba is proud to introduce Aruba's first Sacred Sound Massage, a meditative experience that combines a full-body massage with vibration sound therapy. The Eforea Astronomy Experience, a night-time transformational encounter combines star gazing via telescope, followed by a romantic massage under the stars and a bottle of sparkling wine.

The extensive spa menu features the Escape, Essential, and Signature Journeys, highlighting specialty therapies available in the spa's ten beautifully appointed treatment rooms, the outdoor cabana, or the three couples' rooms, with optional use of steam room, sauna, cold plunge pool, full-service salon and state-of-the-art fitness center.

The Escape Journey menu highlights the use of Aruba's indigenous products such as Aruba Aloe, organic Coconut Oil, rum, fruit serum, sea salt, local herbs, and hot lava stones. Escape massages are designed for guests to unwind, even aid in the quality of their sleep. Exfoliation, hydration, and balancing come together in treatments with local Papiamento names such as Playa Y Lama, translating into Beach & Ocean, and Drumi Dushi, Sleep Sweetly.

The Essential Journey places the focus on body and mind connection, where physical and emotional health are intimately intertwined. The emphasis here is on fitness muscle massages, or stress relief techniques, in light, medium or deep tissue pressure. For the first time in eighteen-months, facials are back at Eforea Spa, including moisturizing and balancing treatments for both men and women.



Prenatal and postnatal massages, targeting stress areas, are back and available, upon request.

The Signature Journey pays close attention to often neglected areas of the body, such as Head & Face, Shoulder, Neck & Scalp, or Feet, for ultimate, focused, distress massages. Furthermore, the spa delivers a complete Hand & Foot menu, including a mud treatment, and Hand & Foot renewal, with many enticing options, such as incorporating the Hypervolt Percussion Device for improved circulation. For those seeking the perfect tan, Coola sunscreen or après-sun application is available.

Several upgrades are introduced in the new menu to enhance massages, facials and body treatments even further, with special Babor ampoule applications, NuFace red-light therapy Wrinkle Reducer, and Eye Lifter, all innovative micro-current, anti-aging therapies. To bring people together, the dedicated couples' spaces include the open-air beachfront cabana, for an ultimate romantic escape, a friendship retreat, or mother-

daughter quality-time. Guests who wish to truly transition into their vacation mode, are invited to try the Head to Toe, a complete cleansing and renewing session.

All spa treatments commence with a Hand Cleansing Wellness Ritual, utilizing Aruba Aloe. Hands are thoroughly sanitized with hand soap, Aloe hand sugar scrub, and hand lotion.

The Japanese-inspired Bamboo relaxation area invites guests to linger longer, setting the tone for ultimate tranquility.

Visit Eforea Spa for a much-needed escape and enjoy the added confidence of top safety protocols. All body massages may be performed with gloves upon guest request and face shields are available.

About Eforea Spa:

Eforea Spa is Hilton's refreshing take on a spa experience, dreamed up to delight global guests and deliver a refreshingly unexpected spa experience – a spiritual escape from the increasing hectic day to day. Hilton's Eforea Spa focuses on balance and wellness, where guests can find signature spa journeys waiting for them – the essentials, escape and Men's journeys are core to the Eforea Spa experience, offering a distinctly therapeutic approach & take guests on a "journey of the senses".

Eforea Spa at Hilton Aruba offers a special daily Happy Hour between 5-6pm, with a choice of a 10% discount on a treatment or a complimentary add on to a treatment.

To book your next treatment at Eforea Spa, call +297-526-6052 or email at auahh_eforeea_aruba@hilton.com

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'As seen on TikTok' is the new 'As seen on TV'

NEW YORK (AP)—Near the Twizzlers and Sour Patch Kids at a New York candy store are fruit-shaped soft jelly candies that earned a spot on the shelves because they went viral on TikTok.

A flood of videos last year showed people biting into the fruit gummies' plastic casing, squirting artificially-colored jelly from their mouths. Store staffers at the candy store chain It'Sugar urged it to stock up, and the gummies did so well that TikTok became part of the company's sales strategy. The chain now has signs with the app's logo in stores, and goods from TikTok make up 5% to 10% of weekly sales.

"That's an insane number," said Chris Lindstedt, the assistant vice president of merchandising at It'Sugar, which has about 100 locations.

TikTok, an app best known for dancing videos with 1 billion users worldwide, has also become a shopping phenomenon. National chains, hoping to get TikTok's mostly young users into its stores, are setting up TikTok sections, reminiscent of "As Seen On TV" stores that sold products hawked on infomercials.

At Barnes & Noble, tables display signs with #BookTok, a book recommendation hashtag on TikTok that has pushed paperbacks up the bestseller list. Amazon has a section of its site it calls "Internet Famous," with lists of products that anyone who has spent time on TikTok would recognize.

The hashtag #TikTokMadeMeBuyIt has gotten more than 5 billion views on TikTok, and the app has made a grab-bag of products a surprise hit: leggings, purses, cleaners, even feta cheese. Videos of a baked feta pasta recipe sent the salty white cheese flying out of supermarket refrigerators earlier this year.

It's hard to crack the code of what becomes the next TikTok sensation. How TikTok decides who gets to see what remains largely a mystery. Companies are often caught off guard and tend



A column of candy, left, featured in TikTok videos is displayed at It'Sugar candy store, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, on the Upper East Side of New York.

Associated Press

to swoop in after their product has taken off, showering creators with free stuff, hiring them to appear in commercials or buying up ads on TikTok.

"It was a little bit of a head scratcher at first," said Jenny Campbell, the chief marketing officer of Kate Spade, remembering when searches for "heart" spiked on Kate Spade's website earlier this year.

The culprit turned out to be a 60-second clip on TikTok posted by 22-year-old Nathalie Covarrubias. She recorded herself in a parked car gushing about a pink heart-shaped purse she'd just bought. Others copied her video, posting TikToks of themselves buying the bag or trying it on with different outfits. The \$300 heart-shaped purse sold out.

"I couldn't believe it because I wasn't trying to advertise the bag," said Covarrubias, a makeup artist from Salinas, California, who wasn't paid to post the video. "I really was so excited and happy about the purse and how unique it was."

Kate Spade sent Covarrubias free items in exchange for posting another TikTok when the bag was back in stores. (That video was marked as an ad.) It turned

what was supposed to be a limited Valentine's Day purse into one sold year round in different colors and fabrics, such as faux fur.

TikTok is a powerful purchasing push for Gen Z because the creators seem authentic, as opposed to Instagram, where the goal is to post the most perfect looking selfie, said Hana Ben-Shabat, the founder of Gen Z Planet. Her advisory firm focuses on the generation born between the late 1990s and 2016, a cohort that practically lives on TikTok.

Users trust the recommendations, she said: "This is a real person, telling me a real story."

Instagram, YouTube and other platforms connected people with friends or random funny videos before marketers realized their selling potential. For TikTok, losing the veneer of authenticity as more ads and ways to shop flood the app could be a risk. If ads are "blatant or awkward, it's more of a problem," said Colin Campbell, an assistant professor of marketing at the University of San Diego. Influencers who get paid to shill for brands are getting better at pitching goods to

their followers, telling them that even though they get paid, they're recommending a product they actually like. "They feel like they are our friend, even though they aren't," he said.

Channah Myers, a 21-year-old barista from Goodyear, Arizona, bought a pair of \$50 Aerie leggings after seeing several TikTok videos of women saying the cross-banding on the waist gave them a more hourglass-like figure. "It's funny, I shop religiously at Aerie and I had no idea they existed until I saw them on TikTok," Myers said.

After those Aerie leggings went viral on TikTok in 2020, the teen retailer expanded the same design to biker shorts, tennis skirts and bikini bottoms, all of which can be found by searching "TikTok" on Aerie's website. It wouldn't say how many of the leggings sold.

TikTok, along with other tech companies like Snapchat, is gearing up to challenge Facebook as a social-shopping powerhouse. Shopping on social media sites, known as social commerce, is a \$37 billion market in the U.S., according to eMarketer, mostly coming from Instagram and its parent company Facebook. By the end of 2025,

that number is expected to more than double, to \$80 billion.

Last month, TikTok began testing a way for brands to set up shop within the app and send users to checkout on their sites. But TikTok has hinted that more is coming. It may eventually look more like Douyin, TikTok's sister app in China, where products can be bought and sold without leaving the app — just like you can on Facebook and Instagram.

"Over the past year, we've witnessed a new kind of shopping experience come to life that's been driven by the TikTok community," said TikTok General Manager Sandie Hawkins, who works with brands to get them to buy ads on the app and help them boost sales. "We're excited to continue listening to our community and building solutions that help them discover, engage and purchase the products they love."

That includes The Pink Stuff, a British cleaning product that wasn't available in the U.S. last year. That all changed when videos of people using it to scrub rusty pots and greasy countertops went viral on TikTok, pushing the brand to cross the Atlantic. It launched in the U.S. in January on Amazon, with 1.3 million tubs sold monthly, and is getting calls from major stores wanting to stock it, according to Sal Pesce, president and chief operating officer of The Pink Stuff U.S.

"I've never seen anything like this," he said. □

**ARUBA
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Energy agency urges bigger global push to cut emissions

By DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The International Energy Agency is urging governments to make stronger commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions at an upcoming U.N. climate summit, warning the world is not on track to meet environmental goals and that new investment in clean energy was needed to "jolt the energy system onto a new set of rails."

The Paris-based international organization said Wednesday in its annual world energy outlook that great strides have been made to move away from fossil fuels by relying on more wind and solar energy, while electric vehicles are setting sales records. But the economic rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic also has seen an increase in the use of coal and oil, the report said, as well as a leap in emissions. Burning fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas that scientists blame for climate change. □

"The world's hugely encouraging clean energy momentum is running up against the stubborn incumbency of fossil fuels in our energy systems," said Fatih Birol, executive director of the 30-country IEA. Governments at the summit needed to "give a clear and unmistakable signal that they are committed to rapidly scaling up the clean and resilient

technologies of the future. The social and economic benefits of accelerating clean energy transitions are huge, and the costs of inaction are immense." The report said the recovery was putting major strains on parts of the energy system, leading to sharp rises in prices for natural gas, coal and electricity as worldwide energy demand is set to regain the ground lost last year during the pandemic.

Electricity demand in particular had come "roaring back" in Asia, leading to a rise in the use of coal-fired plants. Such energy crunches were a prelude of more disruption to come if investment in new sources of energy did not increase, according to the report. Representatives of more than 200 countries will gather for the 26th U.N. Climate Change Conference, known as COP26, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12 in Glasgow, Scotland, to discuss new targets for cutting or curbing the growth of emissions that contribute to climate change. □

The goal under the 2015 Paris climate accord is to limit the rise of global temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius (35 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees.



In this Thursday, April 29, 2021 file photo, a coal-fired RWE power plant steams on a sunny day in Neurath, Germany.

Associated Press

The U.N.'s scientific committee on climate change has said emissions must be cut to net zero — when greenhouse gases are balanced out by their removal from the atmosphere — by 2050 to reach the 1.5-degree limit. Birol said governments' current pledges would result in only 20% of the reduction by 2030 needed to reach net zero emissions by 2050. He said investment in clean energy and infrastructure would have to triple over the next decade "to jolt the energy system onto a new set of rails." Most of that spending would have to come in emerging and developing economies, where financing can be scarce and which are still facing a public health crisis. There remains only a

"narrow but achievable" pathway to net zero, according to the agency. The financial think tank Carbon Tracker Initiative said the report was "real guidance on managing the climate crisis" but cautioned that "it remains excessively cautious about falls in renewable energy costs and growth rates worldwide." □

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Review: An idiosyncratic tribute for an idiosyncratic band

By JOCELYN NOVECK

As a young man starting college, director Todd Haynes fell immediately for the Velvet Underground — the band which, musician Brian Eno famously said, didn't sell many records, but everyone who bought one went and started a band.

It sounds like the storyline of a great fictional music film: Amidst the flower-power hippie era, a rock band emerges from the New York avant-garde art scene with the opposite ethos, dressed in black with an outsider vibe, singing about drugs and seedy sex. This group of unlikely personalities and unwieldy talent collaborates with Andy Warhol on edgy shows that meld music, visual art and performance — a unique mix that brings little commercial success. But the band will be credited as one of the most influential in rock history.

"The Velvet Underground," Haynes' wonderfully idiosyncratic, brilliantly constructed rock doc — or rockumentary? — tells just that story. And it's true.

Unless you are, like Haynes, a diehard fan of the band that launched the ca-



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Moe Tucker, John Cale, Sterling Morrison and Lou Reed from the documentary "The Velvet Underground."

Associated Press

reer of Lou Reed and was managed by Warhol, you might find it surprising that some refer to it in the same breath as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. But such is the regard in which the Velvet Underground is held by many, who point to its influence on punk and other styles — even though it lasted some six years before the mercurial Reed walked away in 1970, and

never achieved real mainstream success.

Whatever your level of familiarity, Haynes' doc — the first for this accomplished director — is so stylistically compelling, it doesn't really matter what you knew coming in.

His aim is not merely to tell the story of the Velvet Underground, through interviews and an astonishingly vast collection of archival

material (all shot before the early '70s), including generous snippets of avant-garde filmmaking. He seems, in his idiosyncratic, non-linear style, to be trying to create the documentary version of a Velvet Underground show.

Most importantly, Haynes uses a split-screen technique for virtually the entire two hours, an effect that is much more than technical.

It's as if one viewpoint would never suffice; there's always another, even if it's just a photo of a pensive Reed, implicitly casting skepticism over what someone is saying. Or munching on a Hershey's chocolate bar. And we don't just mean two screens. At points, there are 12 screens telling the story, combinations of still and moving images. The spirit seems aligned with those multimedia shows in the mid-'60s, where Warhol would project his dreamlike screen visuals as the Velvets played and an eclectic audience danced (even Rudolf Nureyev.)

Haynes' dazzling visuals are grounded by interviews with the two living band members — most extensively John Cale, the Welshman and classically trained violinist who formed a potent partnership with the Long Island-born Reed. The other is drummer Maureen "Moe" Tucker, who has a great line when describing how the Velvets diverged from hippie culture: Peace and love? "We hated that. Get real," she says dismissively. One man who couldn't be interviewed: Reed himself, who died in 2013 after a long solo career. □

Adele says her new album, '30,' is being released Nov. 19



Adele poses in the press room with the awards for album of the year for "25", song of the year for "Hello", record of the year for "Hello", best pop solo performance for "Hello", and best pop vocal album for "25" at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Feb. 12, 2017.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Six years

after her last album, Adele revealed Wednesday that her new project, "30," will

be released on Nov. 19. An initial single, "Easy on Me," is coming out on Friday.

The British singer, who was divorced in 2019, said in a lengthy Instagram post that after "throwing myself into a maze of absolute mess and inner turmoil," she's feeling better.

"I'm ready to finally put this album out," she wrote.

With giant hits like "Rolling in the Deep" and "Hello," her previous two albums rank among the 50 biggest-selling in music history.

The disc "21" (she names her projects for her age while writing most of the music) was released in 2011 and has sold an estimated 31 million copies worldwide. The album "25" came out in 2015, and sold 22 million copies.

With streaming services like Spotify now dominant, there's no way Adele or anyone will reach those sales figures again. Yet she's in a stratosphere of popularity that only someone like Taylor Swift can approach in the music business. She's also been away for six years from a medium where tastes change from month to month.

In an interview with Vogue recently, Adele said "there isn't a bombastic 'Hello.' But I don't want another song like that. That song catapulted me in fame to another level that I don't want to happen again."

She and her former husband, Simon Konecki, have a 9-year-old son. Adele's 33 years old now.

"I've learned a lot of blistering home truths about my-

self along the way," Adele wrote on Instagram. "I've shed many layers but also wrapped myself in new ones. Discovered genuinely useful and wholesome mentalities to lead with, and I feel like I've finally found my feeling again. I'd go so far as to say that I've never felt more peaceful in my life."

Vogue describes "Easy on Me" as a "gut-wrenching plea of a piano ballad." "It's sensitive for me, this record, just in how much I love it," Adele told the magazine. "I always say that '21' doesn't belong to me anymore. Everyone else took it in their hearts so much. I'm not letting go of this one. This is my album. I want to share myself with everyone, but I don't think I'll ever let this one go." □

International big men rule NBA with their all-around skills

By CHARLES ODUM

AP Sports Writer

Atlanta Hawks coach Nate McMillan believes big men entering the league from other countries thrive because they were taught the fundamentals of the game at a young age. That grasp of the all-around game has helped international big men dominate the NBA.

Last season's MVP voting confirmed the return to prominence of big men in the NBA. The voting also highlighted the dominance of big men from other countries.

Denver's Nikola Jokic of Serbia was the MVP winner, followed by Philadelphia's Joel Embiid from Cameroon. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo from Greece finished fourth in the voting and was the NBA Finals MVP. Golden State's Stephen Curry was third as the only guard in the top four.

Meanwhile, Utah's Rudy Gobert from France won his third defensive player of the year award. Atlanta's Clint Capela from Switzerland was the NBA's top rebounder.

McMillan says some U.S. players are missing the lessons of the "triple threat" skills of shoot, pass and dribble toward the basket that were learned by the players in other nations.

"I just think they come in



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic dribbles during the first half of the team's preseason NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

with the basic fundamentals, more so than our players do," McMillan said Tuesday.

"It used to be a lot of that, but now our guys are not spending as much time in those types of programs. ... You don't spend four years in college anymore where coaches can develop those basic fundamentals of the triple threat."

McMillan then paused before asking, "You know the triple threat? You say that to one of our guys and it's like 'Give me the ball and let me just ...'"

McMillan didn't have to finish the sentence. He could

have said "Let me just dunk" or "let me just score."

Jokic, who averaged 8.3 assists while also posting big scoring and rebounding numbers, flourished while also making his teammates better.

Jokic isn't motivated to dominate the spotlight on the court. That's also the way he lives.

"I don't want to raise my celebrity status," Jokic said. "You can control that in some way. I don't have social media. ... I would rather nobody knows me than everybody knows me, you know. So, it's much better if nobody knows me."

Embiid couldn't escape the spotlight while averaging 28.5 points last season. He added 2.8 assists per game and wants to be known for his play on the other end of the court.

"I have aspirations to be the defensive player of the year," Embiid said at the 76ers preseason media day. "I think I have to be more active and it's hard to do because offensively I'm also asked to do a lot. I don't mind. I love it. I love carrying a team on both ends. I think that's what probably makes me special, because I do it on both ends."

Capela led the league with 14.3 rebounds while making almost 60% of his shots from the field and adding two blocks per game. Capela's rebounding and defense were big reasons the Hawks beat Embiid's 76ers to reach the Eastern Conference finals.

The wave of international big men also includes such players as Phoenix's DeAndre Ayton from the Bahamas, Chicago's two-time All-Star Nikola Vucevic from Switzerland and Dallas center and power forward Kristaps Porzingis, who is from Latvia.

Capela said international big men "embrace our role." Capela said his role is, "Make sure that I do my work. Make sure I finish whenever I get the ball inside. ... You rebound, you create extra possessions. You erase mistakes with blocks. I take pride in that." The international big men also support each other.

"I've known Jokic since I was in high school," Capela said. "Joel for a long time. Rudy since I was back in high school as well. We've known each other and support each other."

Capela hasn't played this preseason while having treatment for a sore left Achilles. He participated in live drills for the second time on Tuesday and expects to be ready for the season. □

Ivanovic, Pennetta, Moya among 6 nominees for tennis Hall

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — Grand Slam title winners Ana Ivanovic, Flavia Pennetta, Carlos Moya and Cara Black are the new nominees on the International Tennis Hall of Fame ballot for the Class of 2022, joining holdovers Lisa Raymond and Juan Carlos Ferrero.

The Rhode Island-based Hall announced the candidates Thursday.

The half-dozen nominees all are in the player category; there is no one in the contributor or wheelchair categories, which only come every four years.

Ivanovic won the 2008 French Open singles championship and reached No. 1 in the rankings. Pennetta was the 2015 U.S. Open singles champion and made it to No. 1 in doubles. Moya won the 1998 French Open title in singles and was ranked No. 1. Black collected 10 major trophies in doubles or mixed doubles and was ranked No. 1 in doubles.

Raymond and Ferrero were first nominated for the Class of 2021; players are eligible for three years before being dropped from the ballot. She won

11 Grand Slam trophies in doubles or mixed doubles and reached No. 1; he was the 2003 French Open singles champ and got to No. 1.

Fan voting begins Friday at vote.tennisfame.com and ends on Oct. 31 and the top three finishers will receive bonus percentage points for their total count. Balloting by journalists, historians and members of the Hall of Fame will happen in the coming months. The inductees will be announced early next year. The Hall ceremony is scheduled for July 16. □



In this June 7, 2008, file photo, Serbia's Ana Ivanovic reacts as she plays Russia's Dinara Safina during the women's final of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris.

Associated Press

Now question in NFL is: Does Gruden reflect broader culture?

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP National Writer

When Shad Khan set out more than a decade ago to become the first member of an ethnic minority to own an NFL team, the Pakistani-American heard the scuttlebutt.

"The conjecture was, 'You will never get approved, because you're not white,'" Khan, now the owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview this week.

His attempt to purchase a 60% stake in one club fell through, so "the narrative that people had been giving to me kind of got reinforced," Khan said.

Undaunted—and, he says, encouraged by Commissioner Roger Goodell—Khan moved on and soon reached an agreement to buy the Jaguars. "Got approved unanimously," Khan noted. "The conjecture and what was going on—and the reality—turned out to be different."

Current and former players and others around the league have varying opinions about a key question that arose in light of the racist, homophobic and misogynistic thoughts expressed by Jon Gruden in emails he wrote from 2011-18, when he was an ESPN analyst between coaching jobs, to then-Washington club executive Bruce Allen: Just how pervasive are those sorts of attitudes around the sport these days?

It's certainly been a topic of conversation in locker rooms.

"I'm not surprised those ideas exist.... I guess I was a little bit surprised by that comfort level, sending an email like that to somebody. I would assume you're pretty assured that they're not going to be offended by it or surprised by it or have them say anything to you about the nature of those emails," said Corey Peters, an Arizona Cardinals defensive lineman in his 11th year in the NFL. "But I think it's good for the league to have that come out, and guys be held accountable



In this Aug. 10, 2018, file photo, Oakland Raiders coach Jon Gruden reacts during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Detroit Lions in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

for the things that they say, even in private."

Gruden resigned as coach of the Las Vegas Raiders on Monday night following reports in The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times about messages he wrote demeaning Goodell, union chief DeMaurice Smith and others, using offensive terms to refer to Blacks, gays and women.

Some saw Gruden's words as indicative of a behind-the-scenes culture that could persist in an industry where about 70% of the players are Black while more than 80% of head coaches (27 of 32) and general managers (also 27 of 32) are white—and all are men.

Among principal owners, only Khan and Buffalo's Kim Pegula are members of minorities.

"The bigger issues aren't unique to the NFL, but I think they are stark in the NFL: Who's in positions of power? And who's making decisions? When that is only one group, particularly people who are privileged, who are from the dominant group, then those are going to likely be skewed decisions and skewed world views," said Diane Goodman, an equity consultant. "It's easy to point to Gruden and go, 'Oh, isn't he terrible?' and 'Look at the terrible things he did.' But

that doesn't look at that larger culture, where people were participating with him. People were allowing these emails to exist. It really is about the whole culture and that sense, that I'm sure people have cultivated, to feel like, 'I can say these things and they will be, at best, appreciated and reciprocated or, at worst, people may not appreciate them but nothing's going to happen.' And that is about privilege and entitlement," Goodman said. "There is the assumption that 'I can say these things to another white man who is going to think they're OK.'"

Some, such as Seahawks six-time All-Pro linebacker Bobby Wagner or Hall of Fame safety Brian Dawkins, found the whole episode more reflective of the country than the NFL. "I hate to say it like this, but that's just the world we live in. That's America," said Dawkins, whose first two seasons in Philadelphia coincided with Gruden's last two as the Eagles' offensive coordinator. "I believe if (the emails were known about) in 2011, then maybe the backlash is not as severe as it is now. I think where we are in the climate that we're in, the things that we've gone through in the last, maybe, three years with social injustice and all

those things, a lot of people are waking up to some of the things that have been normal for too long."

Said Wagner: "There are people out there like that, that speak that way, that have that mindset, that have not grown. It's not just football, it's not just NFL ownership or coaches or anything like that."

Denver Broncos safety Justin Simmons raised the point that representation matters: "You get different backgrounds, you get different opinions."

He also thinks his job's workplace culture is improving. "Progress has been made. Whether it's good enough or not good enough, I won't go into details about that," said Simmons, who entered the NFL in 2016. "I'm a firm believer that as long as we're taking steps in the right direction, that has to be positive, right?"

Former defensive end Mike Flores figures the sentiments found in the emails, which were gathered during an investigation into sexual harassment and other workplace misconduct at the Washington Football Team, do not represent merely one man's mindset.

"I know how people talk and joke around in locker rooms. Most people in the NFL would be highly scrutinized if the 'politically correct police' examined

everyone's emails," Flores — who played college football at Louisville with Gruden's brother, Jay, before spending five seasons with the Eagles, 49ers and Washington — said in a phone interview.

Hugh Douglas, a defensive end with the Jets, Eagles and Jaguars from 1995-2004, told the AP that Black athletes are "conditioned" to hearing "the racial stuff" and hypothesized that owners wouldn't want their emails made public.

But Pat Hanlon, senior VP of communications for the New York Giants, tweeted, "Been in league 35 yrs. Have never heard that language in writing or verbally. I'm not naïve. Sure it has been there." He wrote "it is not commonplace" in a second tweet.

Reigning NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers sees a generational gap between the folks in charge and those taking the field.

"I can say with real honesty and pride that I don't feel like those are opinions that are shared by players. I feel like, in the locker room, it's a close-knit group of guys. And we don't treat people differently based on the way that they talk, where they're from, what they're into, what they look like," the Packers quarterback said on The Pat McAfee Show.

"I know that there's probably opinions similar to (Gruden's), but I feel like they're few and far between. I really do," Rodgers said. "I feel like the player and the coach of today is a more empathetic, advanced, progressive, loving, connected type of person. ... Hopefully we can all, as a league, learn and grow from this and hopefully it puts people on notice who have some of those same opinions, like, 'Hey, man, it's time to grow and evolve and change and connect.'"

Miami Dolphins coach Brian Flores, who is Black, was among those echoing that sentiment.

"From my standpoint, what I love about the game is that it brings people together. □